CLAIMS

1. In a wireless communication system, a method for performing handoff comprising the steps of:

at a first station, determining when a handoff is necessary;

receiving a indication of link quality of signals transmitted by said first station; and

selectively performing said handoff when said indication of link quality of signals transmitted by said first base station.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises power control commands for controlling the transmission energy of said first station.

3. The method Claim 1 wherein said first station is a subscriber station and said step of selectively performing said handoff comprises the steps of:

selecting a base station to transmit to said subscriber station;

determining in accordance with said indication of link quality whether signals transmitted by said subscriber station are of being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy; and

performing handoff to said selected base station when said step of determining indicates that signals transmitted by said subscriber station are of being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said step of performing handoff comprises transmitting a message indicating the identity of said selected base station.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein said message further indicates a requested rate of transmission by said selected base station.

6. The method of Claim 4 wherein said step of transmitting said message comprises spreading a message indicative of said requested rate by a spreading code selected in accordance with said selected base station.

7. The method Claim 1 wherein said first station is a subscriber station and said step of selectively performing said handoff comprises the steps of:

determining that a base station used to communicate with said subscriber station continues to have to have the strongest signal received by said subscriber station;

determining in accordance with said indication of link quality whether signals transmitted by said subscriber station are of being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy; and

forcing a handoff to an alternative base station when said step of determining indicates that signals transmitted by said subscriber station are not being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy.

8. The method of Claim 3 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises power control commands for controlling the transmission energy of said first station.

9. The method of Claim 4 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises power control commands for controlling the transmission energy of said first station.

10. The method of Claim 5 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises power control commands for controlling the transmission energy of said first station.

11. The method of Claim 6 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises power control commands for controlling the transmission energy of said first station.

12. The method of Claim 7 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises power control commands for controlling the transmission energy of said first station.

13. The method of Claim 1 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises a rate request message.

14. The method of Claim 3 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises a rate request message.

15. The method of Claim 4 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises a rate request message.

16. The method of Claim 5 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises a rate request message.

17. The method of Claim 6 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises a rate request message.

18. The method of Claim 7 wherein said indication of the link quality comprises a rate request message.

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